

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. General Remarks.

At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-64 were pending. Claims 1-64 are subject to a restriction requirement. Claims 1-17 have been canceled herein in response to the restriction requirement. Claims 18, 21-26, 29, 30, 33, 35, 38-43, 46, 50, 53-58, 61 and 62 are currently amended herein. Claims 65-67 have been added.

II. Remarks Regarding Restriction Requirement.

In the present office action the Examiner has issued a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between the following:

I. Claims 1-17, drawn to a method of making a reduced-density, coated particulate, classified in class 427, subclass 212.

II. Claims 16-27, and 30-34, drawn to a method of treating a subterranean formation, classified in class 166, subclass 293.

III. Claims 35-49, drawn to a method of fracturing a subterranean formation, classified in class 166, subclass 293.

IV. Claims 50-64, drawn to a method of installing a gravel pack, classified in class 507, subclass 200.

At the outset, Applicants would like to respectfully note that it appears that the Examiner intended for Group I to refer to claims 1-17 and Group II to refer to claims 18-34. Thus, any reference to Group I or Group II in this response is consistent with these designations.

In response to this restriction requirement, Applicants provisionally elect for examination on the merits, with traverse, claims 18-34 and 65-67 drawn to a method of treating a subterranean formation. Although Applicants are making the above election to be fully responsive to the restriction requirement, Applicants respectfully traverse the requirement and reserve the right to petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.144. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement with respect to groups II, III, and IV for at least the reasons provided below.

Applicants respectfully point out that claim 18 is generic and the limitations of claim 18 are required by both independent claims 35 and 50. Thus, claims 18-64 do not represent independent and distinct inventions, and all of these claims fall within the scope of the same invention. Therefore, for at least this reason, the restriction requirement with respect to

claims 18-64 is improper. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn with respect to these claims.

II. Remarks Regarding Species Election.

In the present office action, the Examiner has required an election of species in provisionally elected claims 18-34. (Office Action, at 2.) The Examiner has indicated that claims 19 is generic. *Id.*

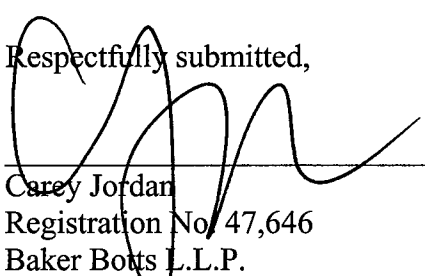
Accordingly, Applicants hereby elect the resin composition of claim 25 and the density reducing material of claim 31, if no generic claim is found allowable. In accordance with this election requirement, Applicants identify claims 18-19, 25-26, 28-29, 31-34, and 65-67 as falling within these elected species. Applicants reserve their right to pursue additional species should a generic be allowed, or in a divisional or other continuing application.

SUMMARY

In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicit timely notice of the same. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney of record by telephone, facsimile, or electronic mail.

Applicants believe that there are no fees due in association with the filing of this Response. However, should the Commissioner deem that any fees are due, including any fees for extensions of time, Applicants respectfully request that the Commissioner accept this as a Petition Therefor, and direct that any additional fees be charged to Baker Botts L.L.P. Deposit Account No. 02-0383, Order Number 063718.0178.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 12, 2006